FBI Probes Scuffle Of MP, Lawyer in N.C.

FT. BRAGG, N.C., July 22 (UPI)—The FBI launched an investigation today into reports that an Army investigator assaulted the attorney of an officer accused of slaying his wife and two children.

Agents questioned newsmen who Monday reported they saw an Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) agent hurl attorney Dennis Eisman to the ground.

The FBI also questioned Eisman and attorney Bernard Segal, who also represents Capt. Jeffrey MacDonald.

"We are not aware of how the FBI got into this, but we are glad," said Eisman: "We trust the FBI to give a more accurate account of this than the Army."

An FBI spokesman in Charlotte said the investigation was undertaken at the request of U.S. Attorney Warren Cooldge of Fayetteville.

The incident occurred Monday when Army police stopped a car in which MacDonald, Eisman and Segal were riding and said they wanted to take MacDonald into "protective custody." The Army denied manhandling Eisman, maintaining the attorney "wrenched himself violently" and either fell or threw himself to the ground.

In New York, meanwhile, MacDonald's mother and his slain wife's parents accused the Army of bungling the murder investigation and demanded an open hearing so that MacDonald can be publicly exonerated.

"Captain MacDonald is not guilty of anything but trying to serve his country," Alfred Kassab, stepfather of the dead woman, said at a news conference. Mrs. Kassab nodded her head in agreement.

Mrs. Dorothy MacDonald, the accused man's widowed mother, said she was convinced he would be proved innocent but "a cloud will be hanging over his head" if his exoneration is based on secret hearings.

The Army is holding a hearing at Ft. Bragg at present to determine whether MacDonald will be tried for the murders. The only person not directly involved in the case who has been admitted to the hearing is MacDonald's mother.